

Remarks

In the present RCE, two claims (1 and 7) are amended. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-9, and 13-16 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 2003/0193776 (Bicknel) in view of USPN 2003/0193776 (Felton). Claims 2, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bicknel in view of Felton and USPN 6,208,522 (Manweiler). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bicknel in view of Felton and USPN 2004/0062002 (Barringer).

Applicants respectfully state that these rejections are moot in view of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 7. Claim 1 now recites that edge connectors of the signal routing board connect to both the I/O controller circuit boards and the storage array circuit board. As shown in FIG. 7 of Bicknell, the controller boards 108 connect to MUX 208 located on the circuit board 110, not to edge connectors. Further, claim 1 recites that the signal routing board and I/O controller circuit boards are horizontally disposed with respect to the storage array circuit board being vertically disposed. Nowhere does Bricknell even suggest such a configuration. Also, claim 7 recites the I/O controller board and signal routing circuit board connect end-to-end and are horizontally disposed with respect to the storage array circuit board vertically disposed in the housing. Again, nowhere does Bricknell even suggest such a configuration.

In view of the amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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